

THE WILLIAM D. RUCKELSHAUS CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON



“Collaborative problem solving is an enormously powerful approach to resolving conflicts; it holds great promise for better, faster and more sustainable policy decisions. With the combined resources of our premier research institutions, this center establishes an invaluable neutral forum for addressing some of our most complex and pressing challenges.”

- WILLIAM D. RUCKELSHAUS

For more information on the William D. Ruckelshaus Center, please visit our website at:
RuckelshausCenter.wsu.edu

ABOUT THE RUCKELSHAUS CENTER

MISSION

The mission of the William D. Ruckelshaus Center is to help parties involved in complex public policy challenges in the State of Washington and the Pacific Northwest tap university expertise to develop collaborative, durable, and effective solutions.

VISION

The Center envisions a future in which government leaders, policy makers, and community members routinely employ tools of collaborative decision making to design, conduct, and implement successful public policy processes.

IDENTITY

We are a joint effort of Washington State University, hosted and administered by the WSU Extension, and the University of Washington, hosted through the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Policy and Governance. Building on the unique strengths of these two institutions, the Center applies university resources and knowledge towards solving challenging public policy issues.

VALUES

Collaboration, consensus, equity, knowledge, education, inquiry, and independence.

WHAT WE DO

The Ruckelshaus Center helps people work together to develop shared solutions to challenging policy issues. Areas where we work include:

- Community and Economic Development
- Land Use
- Natural Resources
- Transportation
- Agriculture
- Healthcare
- Tribal, Federal, State, and Local Governance

We build problem-solving capacity in the region by helping individuals and organizations better understand, initiate, participate in, and lead collaborative public policy efforts.

WHO WE SERVE

The Center assists public, private, tribal, nonprofit, and other leaders to build consensus, resolve conflicts, and develop innovative, shared solutions for Washington and the Pacific Northwest.

“You brought collaborative problem solving, you brought trust, and you shifted the discussion.”

-MAIA BELLON

*Former Director, Washington State
Department of Ecology*



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Paul Ward, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission *

Judy Warnick, WA State Senate +

Cindy Zehnder, Gordon Thomas Honeywell
Governmental Affairs *

+ *Ex-Officio Member*

* *Executive Committee Member*

** *Development Committee Member*

Revised October 2021.

HOW WE DO IT

- Provide a neutral and safe forum for parties to constructively define shared goals and resolve differences
- Conduct a situation assessment to determine how parties should proceed with a collaborative approach
- Provide facilitation, mediation, dispute resolution, project management, strategic planning, and other services that help parties reach consensus and resolve issues
- Provide diverse groups with a common information base via university research and fact finding
- Provide knowledge, training, and tools to improve the collaborative problem-solving abilities of individuals and organizations
- Host policy discussions in the form of guest lectures, conferences, and our Chairman's Circle and Statesperson luncheons

GOVERNANCE AND FUNDING

We are guided by an Advisory Board which includes prominent leaders representing a broad range of constituencies from across Washington, and both chambers/parties in the Legislature.

Funding for the Center is sought from a mix of sources, including foundations, corporations, individuals, agencies, other state and federal sources, and fee-for-service contracts, when appropriate.

WSU Extension and UW Evans School of Public Policy and Governance programs and employment are available to all without discrimination.

CONTACT US

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